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EPA Proposes Sauget Sites for Superfund National Priorities List; Comment Period Begins

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285737

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
No. 01-OPA150

CHICAGO (Sept. 20, 2001) -- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposes adding the Sauget Area 1 and Sauget Area 2 sites, in the Village of Sauget and Cahokia, Ill., to the Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the list are eligible for further investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

A total of 17 sites were proposed for the list on Sept. 13, 2001, including the two Sauget sites. The Sauget sites are the only new sites proposed in EPA Region 5. EPA also announced 11 final sites were added to the NPL, none of which are in EPA Region 5. Currently, there are 1,238 final sites on the NPL and 72 proposed sites. A total of 773 sites have attained construction completion status.

The complete NPL announcement was published in the Federal Register Sept. 13, 2001, with a 60-day public comment period ending November 13, 2001. More Superfund information is online at www.epa.gov/superfund/.

About the Sites

The Sauget Area 1 and Sauget Area 2 sites were used for disposal of industrial, commercial and municipal solid and liquid waste materials starting in the 1930s. EPA concerns at the two sites include contamination of soils, sediments, ground water and surface water by PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), dioxins, metals and a number of other industrial chemicals.

Sauget Area 1 encompasses three closed landfills, two fill areas and portions of Dead Creek. The site was originally proposed for the NPL in June 1996 based on its impact on Dead Creek. As a result of comments received, EPA then investigated the site further before reproposing it with Sauget Area 2. Sauget Area 2 consists of five known disposal areas near the Mississippi River.

Since 1988, a number of limited scope cleanup actions and investigations have been performed at the two sites by EPA or the responsible parties under the direction of EPA and Illinois EPA.

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Last updated on Thursday, February 16th, 2006
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/news/news01/01opa150.htm>